

Message Text

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R 170500Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7356

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 10978

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY HUMMEL FROM AMBASSADOR DEAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CB, APER (DEAN, JOHN GUNTHER)

SUBJECT: CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON

1. ADDRESSING THIS MESSAGE TO YOU IN YOUR PRESENT CAPACITY OF ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY BRINGS BACK MEMORIES OF LAST SUMMER WHEN YOU SO EFFECTIVELY SUPPORTED OUR EFFORTS IN LAOS. I BELIEVE WE DID GOOD WORK TOGETHER.

2. I REALIZE THAT WASHINGTON MUST BE FOCUSSED ON MORE IMPORTANT PROBLEMS, BUT I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR GUIDANCE ON MY INTENTION TO REQUEST CONSULTATION IN WASHINGTON WHICH WOULD ALSO GIVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE MY FAMILY. AS DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL RECALLS, I DID NOT TAKE ANY LEAVE BETWEEN MY DEPARTURE FROM VIENTIANE AND MY ARRIVAL IN PHNOM PENH. AS A MATTER OF FACT, AT THE REQUEST OF THE SECRETARY I CURTAILED MY PRESENCE IN WASHINGTON LAST MARCH IN ORDER TO ARRIVE IN PHNOM PENH SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH TOM ENDERS' DEPARTURE. BOB INGERSOLL KNOWS THAT I COMPLIED WITH THIS REQUEST DESPITE THE PERSONAL HARDSHIP IT CAUSED AT THE TIME. (MY WIFE UNDERWENT SERIOUS SURGERY THE DAY PRIOR TO MY DEPARTURE.) I HAVE BEEN HERE FOUR AND ONE HALF MONTHS AND HAVE NOT TAKEN A SINGLE DAY OFF SINCE MY ARRIVAL HERE AT THE END OF MARCH. I DON'T THINK ANYBODY CAN

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KEEP UP THIS PACE INDEFINITELY.

3. BY THE END OF THIS MONTH I WILL HAVE BEEN HERE FIVE MONTHS AND HOPE TO HAVE GAINED DURING THAT TIME A SOUND UNDERSTANDING OF THE KHMER PROBLEM. WHILE I WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE THAT I HAVE SET FORTH CLEARLY MY VIEWS ON WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE HERE AND WHAT THE LIMITATIONS ARE, I NEVERTHELESS THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR ME TO TALK DIRECTLY TO SOME OF THE POLICY MAKERS AND CLARIFY CERTAIN POINTS WHICH CAN BEST BE DONE ORALLY. IF YOU AND OTHERS BELIEVE IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR ME TO RETURN ON CONSULTATION TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS FACING US IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC, SUCH AS THE DEFENSE OF THE KHMER SEAT AT THE UN, MOUNTING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, MILITARY S OUTLOOK, US CONGRESSIONAL APPROPRIATIONS, AND WHAT, IF ANYTHING, CAN BE DONE TO MOVE THIS PROBLEM TOWARDS A RESOLUTION, THEN I BELIEVE THE END OF AUGUST OR EARLY SEPTEMBER WOULD BE THE MOST APPROPRIATE TIME AS SEEN FROM HERE.

4. THE POLITICAL-ECONOMIC-MILITARY SITUATION IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC IS ABOUT AS GOOD RIGHT NOW AS I EXPECT IT TO BE AND I THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY TO BE ABSENT FROM PHNOM PENH. IN ADDITION, BOTH THE NEW DCM AND THE CONSELOR FOR POLITICAL/ MILITARY AFFAIRS ARE ON BOARD. WE ARE THEREFORE AT FULL STRENGTH.

5. IF THE DEPARTMENT FEELS THAT THERE IS NO NEED FOR ME TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON, THEN I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR REACTION TO MY TAKING TWO WEEKS IN SWITZERLAND OR NEW ENGLAND WITH MY FAMILY AT MY OWN EXPENSE. I MENTION BOTH PLACES BECAUSE THEIR WHEREABOUTS DEPENDS ON WHEN I WOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO LEAVE THIS POST. I SHOULD ADD THAT I HAVE NOT BEEN UNITED WITH MY WIFE AND THREE CHILDREN ALL TOGETHER FOR OVER ONE YEAR. IF CONSULTATIONS ARE AUTHORIZED, I WOULD LIKE TO SPEND SOME TIME WITH MY FAMILY EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER THE TIME SPENT IN WASHINGTON.

6. SOMEHOW I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO WORK INTO MY TRAVEL
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A MEETING WITH PHIL HABIB WITH WHOM MY R CORRESPONDENCE TO DATE HAS BEEN LIMITED TO STRICTLY CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES. I COULD EITHER SCHEDULE MY TRAVLES TO SEE HIM IN SEOUL OR MEET HIM BACK IN WASHINGTON, DEPENDING ON HIS TRAVEL PLANS AND MINE.

7. MANY THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED ASSISTANCE. WE ARE ALL TRYING OUR BEST HERE UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES.

8. WARM REGARDS.
DEAN

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